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attribute permits lid 201 to project over LCD frame 207, thereby casting a desirable shadow when reflective ambient light would otherwise bleach the LCD presentation.

Referring now to FIG. 3, there is shown lid 201 in its fully extended position for purposes of creating a shroud. Clearly, the shadow projection can be altered to suit the convenience of the laptop user. Thus, for outdoor use of a laptop, the shroud provides an additional measure to diminish the bleaching effect of ambient light reflecting off the front of the LCD.

Referring now to FIG. 4, there is set out an alternate advantage of the cover at 90 degrees to the LCD plane insofar as the LCD may be independently illuminated by an overhead projector or the like. The bottom portion 214 of lid 201 extends to the surface underneath the laptop and provides support for an air gap between and LCD and a source of illumination underneath (not shown).

These and other extensions of the invention may be made without departing from the spirit and scope thereof as recited in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In a computer of the notebook type comprising a planar, light-transmissive, multicolored liquid crystal display (LCD) rotationally coupling a base, and information entry and processing means residing in said base for electrically and logically operating said LCD, the combination comprising:

first means for forming a mechanically separable outer protective cover for the LCD, said first means including means for providing diffused artificial backlighting of the LCD when said first means are mechanically engaged as the LCD cover;

second means for positioning the first means in a plane, apart from, yet forming a dihedral angle with the plane of the LCD and for opportunistically reflecting ambient light and projecting the reflected light through the LCD; and

third means for positioning the first means so as to project at least a portion of the first means beyond said LCD for providing either an ambient light shroud to the LCD or an unobstructed light path through the LCD.

2. The combination according to claim 1, wherein said second means positions said first means in a plane lying in a range of planes whose longitudinal axis is parallel with the longitudinal axis of the LCD.

3. The combination according to claim 1, wherein said second means includes a pair of linkages hingedly affixing corresponding edges of the first means and the LCD.

4. The combination according to claim 3, wherein said pair of linkages each includes a first and second link hingedly coupling members.

5. The combination according to claim 1, wherein the third means for positioning the first means so as to project at least a portion of the first means beyond said LCD forms a dihedral angle of approximately 90 degrees between said first means and the plane of the LCD.

6. An arrangement for enhancing observability over varying ambient light conditions of a planar, light-transmissive,

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multicolored liquid crystal display (LCD) rotationally coupled to a base, said LCD having a viewing plane and a plane susceptible to backlighting and being electrically and logically operable by circuitry resident in the base, the arrangement comprises:

a separable lid of size sufficient to cover the back plane of the LCD, the interior side of said lid forming a reflective surface and a diffuser of artificial light; and

means for engaging the lid to the LCD so as to:

(1) backlight the LCD with diffused artificial light when the lid is in a contact covering position to the back plane of the LCD,

(2) spatially position the reflective surface of the lid in one intersecting locus of a plurality of intersecting loci to form a dihedral angle with the back plane of the LCD,

(3) reflectively project incident ambient light through the back plane of the LCD,

(4) spatially position at least a portion of the lid to extend beyond the LCD, said lid casting a shadow in ambient light over the LCD viewing plane.

7. The arrangement according to claim 6, wherein the means for spatially positioning at least a portion of the lid to project over the LCD forms a dihedral angle of approximately 90 degrees providing an unobstructed path through the LCD for an independent source of focused light incident upon the back plane.

8. The arrangement according to claim 7, wherein the plane of the LCD is normal to the source of illumination and said lid when positioned at a 90-degree angle thereto and supports an air gap between the LCD and the illumination source.

9. A system for enhancing the observability of a multicolored liquid crystal display (LCD), said LCD being resident in a top lid in a computer of the notebook type, said LCD having a back plane and a viewing plane, said system comprising in combination:

(a) a mechanically-separable top lid of the notebook computer forming a diffuser/reflective surface and the LCD in a frame;

(b) a slider and linkage arrangement hingedly and rotatably attaching the diffuser/reflective surface to the LCD in the frame; and

(c) means including the slider and linkage arrangement for positioning the diffuser/reflective surface in a plane, apart from, yet forming a dihedral angle with the plane of the LCD, said diffuser/reflector surface operating as a flat field illuminator,

said means and arrangement providing a range of positions for the diffuser/reflector surface to opportunistically reflect ambient light through the back plane of the LCD and for causing at least a portion of the diffuser/reflective surface to project over the plane of the LCD, thereby securing a contrast-maintaining shadow otherwise bleachable by light incident to the LCD viewing plane.

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